

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700270

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

This grounds operation project funds work activities for 3 OHV Recreation Areas around Barstow. These are the Razor, Johnson & Stoddard Valley Open Areas. This project funds on site visitor services and the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Non-law enforcement Park Rangers, Volunteers and Rescue 3 work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services, and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. Additional staffing is provided over holiday weekends and during special events. We are updating our fliers for the OHV recreation area and using recycled paper in the process. Visitor services field work is overseen and coordinated through the activities of dispatchers providing their services from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.

More work activities in this project include maintenance of the protective perimeter barriers, several miles of internal access roads, mines and cultural site protective barriers, several vault toilets and hundreds of various types & size signs. Where possible native materials such as boulders and native vegetation are used to block or restore traces of inappropriate routes. Visitor contacts would focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws. New work includes wildlife and soil surveys, including monitoring and further development of project habitat & soil management plans. Project staff and management also addressing emerging issues in these areas related to renewable energy projects and military base expansion.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

These three OHV Recreation Areas were created in the original 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan and have provided world class OHV opportunities for 28 years. This project provides the visitor services and facility maintenance needed to continue providing sustained OHV recreation opportunities on public land. Many of these facilities were built with monies from previous green sticker grants. Visitor contact and support services are provided by staff working out of the BLM Barstow Office and through routine patrols of the recreation area. This work provides basic visitor services for people staging, camping and riding OHVs here today and tomorrow.

Additional staff work takes care of infrastructure built to manage, contain and support OHV recreation. Perimeter barriers have been installed in critical areas to delineate the legal riding opportunity and prevent trespass or incursions into critical desert tortoise habitat. Maintaining the access road network facilitates visitor and emergency vehicle travel and distribution throughout the recreation areas. Maintaining the signs, restrooms and protective fencing sustains a clean healthy setting. And behind the scenes more work activities address the management and protection of sensitive desert resources. Additional new work will address soil and road conditions through increased monitoring. Plus, increased efforts for special status species inventories, mapping and hmp plan improvements. Barstow Staff continue to issue permits and prepare NEPA documents and permits for a steady stream of special events.

C. Size of the Project

The Stoddard Valley OHV Recreation Area contains 35,000 acres, Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area contains about 165,000 acres, and the Razor OHV Recreation Area comprises about 30,000 acres. Total project size is 230,000 acres.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

This project includes public land designated for motorized recreation at the Razor, Stoddard and Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Areas. The Razor recreation area is about 35 east of Barstow, just off Interstate 15. This is an exciting and more remote area for the off-highway vehicle user. Razor has rolling hills, open valleys, and sand dunes that invite riders willing to travel through this remote area. Elevations range from near 2,427 feet elevation down to around 1,275 feet elevation at the Mojave River.

Located just south of Barstow off I-15 Highway, Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area offers a diverse landscape for off-highway vehicle recreation. It is characterized by steep rocky mountains, rolling hills, open valleys, and winding sandy washes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet on Stoddard Peak, to 2,800 feet at Turtle Valley. Vegetation consists of creosote scrub, annual grasses, wild flowers and the Joshua tree; a symbol of the Mojave Desert.

Johnson Valley is a varied landscape for the off-highway vehicle driver. It is punctuated by steep red rocky mountains, rolling hills, open valleys, dry lake beds and sandy washes. Elevations range from 4,600 feet at Hartwell Hills to 2,300 feet at Melville Dry Lake. Vegetation consists of creosote scrub, annual grasses, wild flowers and Joshua Trees.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

(a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
Attachments: [Barstow GO Project Map](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
Application: Barstow OHV Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Barstow Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Barstow OHV Ground Operations	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This grounds operation project funds work activities for 3 OHV Recreation Areas around Barstow. These are the Rasor, Johnson & Stoddard Valley Open Areas. This project funds on site visitor services and the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Non-law enforcement Park Rangers, Volunteers and Rescue 3 work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services, and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. Additional staffing is provided over holiday weekends and during special events. We are updating our fliers for the OHV recreation area and using recycled paper in the process. Visitor services field work is overseen and coordinated through the activities of dispatchers providing their services from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.</p> <p>More work activities in this project include maintenance of the protective perimeter barriers, several miles of internal access roads, mines and cultural site protective barriers, several vault toilets and hundreds of various types & size signs. Where possible native materials such as boulders and native vegetation are used to block or restore traces of inappropriate routes. Visitor contacts would focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws. New work includes wildlife and soil surveys, including monitoring and further development of project habitat & soil management plans. Project staff and management also addressing emerging issues in these areas related to renewable energy projects and military base expansion.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Park Ranger Notes : Full time position spread among the 3 sites.	2080.000	28.000	HRS	29,120.00	29,120.00	58,240.00
	Maintenance Worker Notes : Full time position spread among the 3 sites.	2080.000	38.000	HRS	39,500.00	39,540.00	79,040.00
	Other-NPLD Volunteers	1200.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
	Other-Desert Cleanup Volunteers	500.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Other-Wildlife Biologist	180.000	53.000	HRS	4,770.00	4,770.00	9,540.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
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6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Soil Specialist	180.000	53.000	HRS	4,770.00	4,770.00	9,540.00
	Other-Dispatcher	500.000	38.000	HRS	9,500.00	9,500.00	19,000.00
	Total for Staff				87,660.00	121,700.00	209,360.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Pump vault toilets	40.000	400.000	EA	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Flexible fiberglass signs	300.000	24.000	EA	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Agency 4 x 4 pickup trucks	720.000	40.000	DAY	0.00	28,800.00	28,800.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Management Oversight	200.000	65.000		0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
	Administrative Costs-Budget/Timekeeper	300.000	40.000		0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
	Administrative Costs-Admin Volunteer/Pro	290.000	53.000		0.00	15,370.00	15,370.00
	Total for Administrative Costs				0.00	40,370.00	40,370.00
	Total Program Expenses				87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
 Application: Barstow OHV Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	87,660.00	121,700.00	209,360.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	28,800.00	28,800.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	40,370.00	40,370.00	
Total Program Expenses		87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		87,660.00	214,070.00	301,730.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project includes work activities at three separate but similar sites, the Johnson Valley, Stoddard Valley and Rasor OHV Recreation Areas. Each is located on relatively similar desert terrain and geography with few conflicts among OHV riders and natural resources. This project would have no impact on wetlands or navigable water because there are none in the project area. Project activities could impact desert tortoise in both Johnson Valley and Stoddard Valley. Formal Consultations have been conducted for the desert tortoise in both of these areas. Terms and conditions have been developed which would avoid and minimize these potential impacts to the extent practicable. The Mojave Fringe-toed lizard could be impacted by the project at the Rasor OHV Recreation Area. Ground disturbing activities are subject to review on a case-by-case basis to avoid and minimize impacts to fringe-toed lizards. Also, this species is subject to management under the HMP - in particular, the HMP calls for focused studies to assess population dynamics and the relation to OHV recreation at Dumont Dunes. No other sensitive habitat or species would be impacted by this project.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

This is a ground operations project to fund continued routine maintenance and operation of existing facilities and services. We determined the potential impacts from these routine activities are nominal and therefore determined this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion. No cumulative impacts were identified for this project.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

There is a very low possibility the proposed activities will have a significant effect on slopes or soils because our routine maintenance and operations do not involve work on steep slopes or highly erosive soils. This project involves routine upkeep and maintenance for minimal facilities providing basic services such as signs, kiosks, vault toilets and roads within the OHV recreation areas. All these facilities are located to avoid environmental problems related to steep slopes and highly erosive soils. Planned work activities in this project include measuring and monitoring soils within the recreation area to update and ensure compliance with our soils management plan.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There is no potential for damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of a state scenic highway because there are no scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed project.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

There is no potential for this project to cause indirect significant impacts because all the activities in this project are minor with no or nominal surface disturbances. The work consists of routine on-going maintenance and operations of existing facilities and services inside the OHV recreation area. Continued maintenance and operations in this project will likely result in an attractive setting that continues to draw OHV riders to these areas, thereby keeping user groups here and avoiding dislocation to elsewhere and the resulting off-site impacts.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Stoddard Valley Categorical Exclusion](#)
[Johnson Valley Categorical Exclusion](#)
[Rasor Categorical Exclusion](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. The Johnson Valley Area is under consideration by the military for expansion, project compliance and public participation is critical to avoid loss of OHV opportunity. Renewable energy projects are proposed in or near all areas.
b. The project area includes numerous cultural sites both in and adjacent to the riding areas.
c. There are special status species such as the desert tortoise throughout the project area.
d. Each of this recreation riding areas is bordered by private property protected by signs, patrols and fences.
e. Maintaining these facilities in good clean condition is required to avoid visitor frustration vandalism.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. There are about 50 miles of maintained roads leading into and throughout the project area.
b. Each of the riding areas has roads and drainage control structures requiring annual maintenance, including road surface materials, culverts, low water crossings, sediment basins and rolling dips.
c. We have hundreds of signs with info or directing and controlling traffic, spaced throughout the project area.
d. Historic land uses, plus variety of terrain and visitor riding patterns, created trails for all uses, ATV, jeep, Mc.
e. This project includes a range of terrain in varying degrees of steepness, width and sandyness combining to provide full spectrum of riding difficulty from novice to expert.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project includes input from public OHV Leadership meeting at BLM CDD Office.
c. This project incorporates comments from stakeholders at meetings, open to the public, with the Wilderness Leaders Mtg, (sponsored by California Wilderness Coalition) at the BLM CDD Office.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Friends of Johnson Valley
Coalition to Save Johnson Valley
AMA District 37
Friends of Giant Rock
San Bernardino County Film Commission

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
☒ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. There are numerous protective barriers in the project area to protect sensitive desert resources and private land.
b. Conservatoin measures limit impacts because much of the project area drains north into the Mojave River.
c. After previous problems with washouts a large box culvert was installed and maintained on Boone Rd. in JV.
d. A variety of special status species occur throughout the project area, foremost is the desert tortoise.
f. We have installed nearly 2 dozen vault toilets in the project area.
g. A variety of cultural sites are in or adjacent to the legal riding areas and are at risk of potential impact.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

These areas are managed with a minimalist approach, primarily to keep operations and maintenance cost down. We are not landscaping our riding areas, but rather maintain and restore the natural vegetation which acts as a carbon sequestration sink and captures the greenhouse gases emitted from motorized vehicles in the project area. We save water and energy because we did not build any permanent facilities in the riding areas, other than the vault toilet. The facilities we have installed were made from recycled materials and are bolt together for easy repair and recycle.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☒ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☒ Rock Climbing

☐ Other (Specify)